



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOPKINS TAX PREPARER GUILTY OF DEFRAUDING IRS

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated that Dorothy Lee Anderson, age 47, of Hopkins, was convicted today in federal court in Columbia on eighteen counts of filing False, Fictitious, and Fraudulent Claims, violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 287; one count of Theft of Government Property, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641; and one count of Aggravated Identity Theft, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028A. United States District Judge Joseph F. Anderson, Jr., presided over the three-day trial and will impose her sentence at a later date.

Evidence presented at the trial established that Dorothy Anderson operated DL Anderson Tax Service from her home in Hopkins. Anderson filed fraudulent returns for the 2007 tax year using stolen identities. The stolen identities

including identifying information from a former employer, relatives, prisoners, and others. Anderson used false Household Help income, false dependents, and claimed false Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) on the tax returns. She directed the tax refunds into two bank accounts at Brookland Federal Credit Union. Both bank accounts were owned or controlled by Anderson.

The charged counts correspond to approximately \$68,000 in bogus refunds obtained by Anderson. IRS agents have linked additional fraudulent returns to Anderson, and these will be considered at sentencing.

Mr. Nettles stated the maximum penalty Dorothy Anderson can receive is a fine of \$250,000 and/or imprisonment for five years on each of the first eighteen counts and ten years on the section 641 count. The section 1028A count carries a mandatory two-year sentence in addition to whatever else she receives.

Mr. Nettles stated, "Our tax system depends on the honesty of those who participate in it. Citizens are required to contribute their fair share, and when one criminal decides to cheat the system, that person is stealing from the community of responsible taxpayers. We are gratified that this tax cheat was held accountable by a jury of her peers."

"The IRS is aggressively pursuing those who steal others' identities in order to file false returns," said Steven Miller, IRS Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement. "Our cooperative work with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Tax Division will help protect taxpayers in South Carolina from being victimized by identity theft. The IRS is taking additional steps this tax season to further

prevent, detect and resolve identity theft cases as soon as possible."

The case was investigated by agents of the Internal Revenue Service. Assistant United States Attorney Winston D. Holliday, Jr., of the Columbia office prosecuted the case.

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